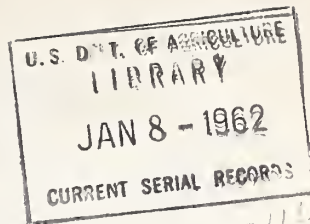


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CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1962

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VENEZUELA'S SESAME SEED
PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY

Venezuela's 1962 sesame seed crop to be harvested in January and February is expected to be down sharply from the record 25,000 short tons produced in 1961. Unofficially the outturn is placed at about 20,000 tons.

In the State of Portuguesa, which in 1961 accounted for 83 percent of the total sesame area and 91 percent of the production, heavy rains have damaged the crop. In addition, planting was delayed because of the difficulty of obtaining suitable seed, and this has resulted in slightly smaller acreage and late harvesting. Moreover, lack of credit also is given as a reason for smaller plantings.

In the Paraguana region, sesame had to be planted twice because of lack of rain, and even with good rains for the remainder of the growing period, production probably will be down from last year.

SESAME SEED: Venezuela, estimated supply and distribution,
annual 1959-61 and forecast 1962

	: 1959	: 1960	: 1961	: 1962
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: <u>short tons</u>	: <u>short tons</u>	: <u>short tons</u>	: <u>short tons</u>
Supply				
Stocks, January 1....	: 22.6	: 10.4	: 10.3	: 6.8
Production.....	: 21.8	: 17.9	: 27.4	: 19.8
Imports.....	: 11.3	: 15.0	: 16.5	: 22.1
Total supply.....	: 55.7	: 43.3	: 54.2	: 48.7
Distribution				
Apparent crush.....	: 45.3	: 33.0	: 47.4	: 44.1
Stocks, December 31..	: 10.4	: 10.3	: 6.8	: 4.6
Total distribution	: 55.7	: 43.3	: 54.2	: 48.7

(Continued on Page 12)

U. S. CIGARETTE EXPORTS
UP SHARPLY THIS YEAR

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U. S. exports of cigarettes in the first 9 months of 1961 were 14.8 per cent larger than in January-September 1960.

Principal destinations in the first 9 months of 1961, in order of their importance, included France, Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Malaya, Belgium-Luxembourg, Kuwait, Uruguay, and the Netherlands Antilles. Exports to all of these destinations, with the exception of Gibraltar and the Netherlands Antilles were larger than a year earlier.

The value of January-September 1961 exports was \$72 million--up 16.5 per cent from a year earlier. The average export valuation this year was \$4.37 per 1,000 pieces, compared with \$4.31 a year ago.

CIGARETTES: U. S. exports, by principal countries
of destination, January-September 1958-1961

Destination	January-September			
	1958	1959	1960	1961
	Million	Million	Million	Million
	<u>pieces</u>	<u>pieces</u>	<u>pieces</u>	<u>pieces</u>
France.....	892.3	954.1	1,021.1	1,300.3
Hong Kong.....	831.9	1,008.2	1,140.1	1,199.2
Gibraltar.....	--	81.1	1,403.4	1,077.5
Malaya 1/.....	666.6	767.7	904.1	1,001.3
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	694.9	661.4	704.5	828.8
Kuwait.....	380.6	507.3	566.8	671.2
Uruguay.....	109.7	115.5	163.2	636.6
Netherlands Antilles.....	513.0	727.2	778.7	626.6
Italy.....	379.4	347.4	422.0	595.7
Sweden.....	472.7	389.7	444.6	500.0
Germany, West.....	314.5	344.6	418.7	481.5
Netherlands.....	310.6	417.8	432.0	472.6
Panama, Republic of.....	187.6	203.2	287.4	423.8
Switzerland.....	196.1	251.0	283.7	401.5
Denmark.....	342.7	344.4	375.5	355.7
Peru.....	199.8	232.4	303.4	350.3
Morocco.....	1,529.0	1,848.2	343.7	333.0
Ecuador.....	301.9	337.3	304.2	287.1
Australia.....	.1	20.4	264.0	247.0
Colombia.....	249.8	208.8	210.2	244.7
Liberia.....	94.9	107.1	154.5	236.5
Canada.....	247.8	236.0	228.6	213.2
Iceland.....	155.2	193.4	152.5	144.6
Bahrein.....	89.2	156.2	233.8	143.2
United Kingdom.....	33.9	37.6	165.2	135.1
Venezuela.....	1,946.1	1,801.0	116.2	.5
Cuba.....	326.4	345.8	35.5	.1
Others.....	1,965.7	2,663.4	2,477.1	3,553.1
Total.....	13,432.4	15,308.2	14,334.7	16,460.7
Value.....	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.
	56,690	65,795	61,823	72,011

1/ Includes Singapore.

RHODESIAN FLUE-CURED EXPORTS UP 8.5 PERCENT

Exports of flue-cured tobacco from the Rhodesias-Nyasaland during the first 9 months of 1961, at 141.0 million pounds, were 8.5 percent larger than the 129.9 million for the same period last year. Stepped-up takings by Non-Commonwealth areas, particularly Japan and Western European countries, accounted for most of the increase.

Exports to Non-Commonwealth countries, at 40.8 million pounds, were 17 percent larger than the 34.9 million shipped in January-September 1960. Combined exports to West Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands rose from 24.8 million pounds to 28.1 million in the first 9 months of 1961. Other European countries stepping-up their takings of Rhodesian flue-cured included Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Portugal and Sweden. Denmark and Austria were the only European countries that reduced their takings of Rhodesian flue-cured.

Other Non-Commonwealth countries increasing their takings of Rhodesian flue-cured tobacco included Japan and the Republic of South Africa. Exports to Japan rose from .1 million pounds to 2.7 million in January-September 1961. Shipments to the Republic of South Africa were about .7 million pounds larger than the 2.5 million last year.

Flue-cured shipments to Commonwealth countries, at 100.2 million pounds, were only 2.8 percent larger than in January-September 1960. Shipments to the United Kingdom totaled 80.6 million pounds compared with 79.8 million last year. Increased exports to the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand and the West Indies more than offset the reduced shipments to Australia and Ceylon. Exports to Australia were 2.4 million pounds less than the 10.2 million shipped during the first 9 months of 1960.

TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED: Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland,
exports by country of destination,
January-September 1960 and 1961

Country of destination	January-September		Country of destination	January-September	
	1960	1961		1960	1961
	1,000 pounds			1,000 pounds	
United Kingdom...	79,803	80,610	Germany, West....	14,183	16,394
Australia.....	10,187	7,802	Netherlands.....	6,511	7,324
Malaya & Singapore:	2,649	3,849	Belgium.....	4,024	4,306
Hong Kong.....	1,488	3,604	Denmark.....	1,341	1,262
Rep. of So. Africa :	2,546	3,277	Norway.....	772	949
New Zealand.....	637	776	Switzerland.....	137	889
West Indies.....	410	856	Finland.....	148	341
Japan.....	127	2,665	Others.....	4,958	6,103
			Total.....	129,921	141,007

Source: Tobacco Intelligence, Commonwealth Economic Committee.

AUSTRALIAN LEAF IMPORTS
CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Australian imports of unmanufactured tobacco in fiscal 1960-61, at 35.7 million pounds, were the smallest since fiscal 1952-53.

The United States continues as the principal supplier of imported leaf but the volume has fallen off sharply during the last 3 fiscal years in contrast to the rise in imports from the Rhodesias-Nyasaland, Republic of South Africa and Canada. Imports from the United States in fiscal 1960-61, at 20.0 million pounds, were 15 percent below the 23.5 million in fiscal 1959-60 and represented only 55.9 percent of total imports. This compares with 63.6 percent in fiscal 1959-60. Combined imports from the Rhodesias-Nyasaland, Republic of South Africa, and Canada in fiscal 1960-61 totaled 15.4 million pounds compared with 12.9 million in fiscal 1959-60. Leaf imports from such countries as Greece, Turkey and Cuba, have always been small

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Australia, imports by country of origin,
fiscal 1960-61, with comparisons

Country of origin	Fiscal year (July-June)		
	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States.....	27,841	23,548	19,959
Rhodesias-Nyasaland.....	10,268	11,892	13,495
Canada.....	40	33	105
Republic of South Africa...	199	984	1,822
Mozambique.....	1/	117	1/
Greece.....	93	109	62
Turkey.....	62	173	1/
Cuba.....	111	68	58
Others.....	65	81	191
Total.....	38,679	37,005	35,692

1/ If any, included in others.

Source: Tobacco Intelligence, Commonwealth Economic Committee.

MALAYAN CIGARETTE
OUTPUT UP 13 PERCENT

Cigarette output in Malaya (Federation of Malaya and Singapore) during the first half of 1961 totaled 5.9 million pounds--up 12.8 percent from the comparable period last year. Output of cigarettes in Singapore, at 2.0 million pounds, was 34 percent larger than the January-June 1960 level of 1.5 million, while output in the Federation of Malaya was only 4 percent larger than the 3.7 million pounds produced during the first half of 1960. Most of the increased requirements of leaf by Malayan cigarette factories is being imported from the United States, Rhodesias-Nyasaland and India.

GERMANY OPENS TO CANNED STRING BEANS, MIXED GREEN PEAS, CARROTS

The German Government has published global import tenders for canned string beans, and mixed green peas and carrots, in retail size containers. Application for import licenses must be filed by March 20, 1962. The custom clearance deadline is March 31, 1962. Import licenses for canned mixed green peas and carrots will be limited to commercial importers who had imported canned vegetables in previous years.

IRELAND TO OPEN FOR U.S. APPLES

The Irish Government will grant import licenses for fresh apples from January 1 to June 15, 1962. Until December 31, 1961, imports of U.S. apples will be permitted under a 1,000-ton quota.

CHILE PURCHASES SUGAR FROM POLAND

Chilean refiners of imported sugar recently reached an agreement with Poland to purchase about 65,000 metric tons of unrefined beet sugar for delivery January through August 1962. The purchase price will average about 59 U.S. dollars a ton c.i.f. Valparaiso.

The Chilean Government would have preferred purchase of Cuban sugar, thereby providing a market for Chilean industrial and agricultural commodities. The current price of Cuban sugar, however, was substantially higher than the Polish price and thus the sugar was purchased from Poland.

Cuba has previously sold sugar to Poland in exchange for industrial commodities. This Cuban sugar has provided Poland with a larger than normal surplus and enabled it to offer beet sugar at a reduced price to Chile.

BORNEO FREE TRADE AREA PROPOSED

Provisions for the establishment of the Borneo Free Trade Area, consisting of Sarawak and North Borneo, were published December 1, 1961. The Area, subject to approval, was scheduled to come into being January 1, 1962. The major effect will be to facilitate entry of the 2 colonies into the future Greater Malaysia.

GUATEMALA MODIFIES BABY CHICK IMPORT REGULATIONS

In a circular issued recently to the various Customs Offices, the Government of Guatemala indicated that baby chick imports labeled "foundation stock" would be allowed to move through Customs in the usual manner. Chicks not labeled "foundation stock" would be required to remain in quarantine for a period of four days. This action appears to have been taken in response to representations of local hatchery enterprises claiming injury from foreign imports.

FRANCE REPORTS RECORD MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in France in 1961 will be a record 52 billion pounds, according to the latest estimates of Societe Technique Interprofessionnelle du Lait.

This increased production, 5 percent above 1960, has resulted in a large surplus of dairy products, and higher government costs for subsidizing the dairy industry. Exports of dairy products are in excess of a year ago. Imports have declined.

Anticipating still further increases in surpluses of dairy products, the Government is making plans to expand both the domestic use and export markets for dairy products.

BRAZIL HARVESTS RECORD BEAN CROP

Brazil, the world's largest bean producer harvested a record crop of 38.5 million 100-pound bags of dry edible beans in 1961. This was 4 percent higher than the 1960 production of 37 million bags and more than double the 1935-39 average of 18 million bags.

Planted acreage in 1961 was 6.2 million acres, the most ever planted to beans in Brazil.

The record 1961 crop will provide an average of 55 pounds per person to Brazil's 70 million people. This is about the normal per capita consumption. Approximately 85 percent of the Brazilian crop is black beans similar to U.S. black turtle soup beans.

Support prices for beans have been raised twice in Brazil in 1961. Support prices for black beans were raised to \$4.00 per cwt. in April and again to \$4.30 in November.

Bean imports are negligible and occur only in cases of severe shortages such as in 1959. It is very unlikely that any will be exported under present policy.

CANADIAN BARLEY EXPORTS UP 79 PERCENT

Exports of Canadian feed grains (barley and oats) for the July-October period of 1961 totaled 414,000 tons -- 68 percent over the 247,000 tons in the comparable period of 1960.

Barley shipments totaled 409,000 tons, of which 65 percent went to Mainland China, and most of the remainder to the United States which has a shortage of malting barley. Exports to the United Kingdom totaled 9,000 tons compared with 138,000 shipped in 1960 for the July-October period. The drop was due largely to the large domestic crop harvested in the United Kingdom in 1961.

Oats exports totaled 5,000 tons compared with 17,000 in 1960. Shipments to the United Kingdom were a little over 100 tons compared with 11,000 in 1960. Oats supplies are short in Canada and a substantial volume is expected to be imported during 1961-62.

OATS AND BARLEY: Canadian exports by country of destination, 1960 and 1961

Country of destination	Oats	Barley	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July-October 1960:			
United States.....	2,558	84,304	86,862
United Kingdom.....	10,656	138,476	149,132
Switzerland.....	1,671	3,466	5,137
Venezuela.....	82	--	82
Barbados.....	20	--	20
Italy.....	--	640	640
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	1,016	--	1,016
Germany, West.....	--	1,763	1,763
Netherlands.....	1,296	606	1,902
Total.....	17,299	229,255	246,554
July-October 1961:			
United States.....	5,096	130,404	135,500
United Kingdom.....	111	9,407	9,518
Venezuela.....	--	907	907
China, Mainland.....	--	266,292	266,292
Peru.....	--	1,999	1,999
Total.....	5,207	409,009	414,216

U.S. COTTON LINTERS

EXPORTS DOWN

U.S. exports of cotton linters, mostly chemical qualities, amounted to 52,000 running bales during the first 3 months (August-October) of the 1961-62 season--10 percent less than the 58,000 bales exported in the same period a year earlier. Exports in October totaled 18,000 bales, compared with 9,000 in the preceding month, and 34,000 in October 1960.

Quantities shipped to principal destinations in August-October 1961, with comparable 1960 figures in parentheses, were: West Germany 23,000 bales (31,000); United Kingdom 16,000 (8,000); Canada 5,000 (4,000); Japan 4,000 (10,000); and France 3,000 (3,000).

AUSTRALIA SHIPS MEAT TO U.S.

The Baltic Sea left Australia in late November with 4,858,560 pounds of frozen beef, 1,198,400 pounds of mutton and 280,000 pounds of lamb.

Sailing date	Destination <u>1/</u>	Arrival date	Item	Quantity
				Pounds
November 30	Philadelphia	December 26	Beef	591,360
do.	do.	do.	Mutton	96,320
do.	do.	do.	Lamb	134,400
do.	New York	do. 29	Beef	3,671,360
do.	do.	do. 29	Mutton	978,880
do.	Boston	Jan. 3, 1962	Beef	595,840
do.	do.	do.	Mutton	123,200
do.	do.	do.	Lamb	145,600

1/ Cities listed indicate location of purchaser and usually the port of arrival and general market area, but meat may be diverted to other areas for sale.

CUBA FACING BEEF SHORTAGE

Fidel Castro has warned Cuban farmers that they must reduce cattle slaughter to safeguard the country's meat supply much of which is beef.

When Castro took over in 1960, Cuba had numerous cattle, beef supplies were plentiful at relatively low prices, and it appeared that the country would soon be exporting beef.

However, many cattle were killed during the revolution and the unstable period when private ranches were being taken over and cooperative farms were being established.

Early last summer beef shortages appeared. The Cuban Trade Minister announced measures to counteract rising beef prices although ceilings had been in effect for 2 years.

Much emphasis is being placed on increasing hog production in view of reduced pork and lard supplies, now that Cuba does not have the foreign exchange to maintain imports from the United States.

URUGUAY'S 1961-62 WOOL SEASON STARTS SLOWLY

Heavy rains in Uruguay from August through October delayed shearing of the new wool clip by nearly a month. Shearing did not become general until early November.

Because of short supplies exporters were paying premium prices to obtain wool for contracted deliveries in October and November. However, as the bulk of the clip begins to move to market, slightly lower prices are expected.

Uruguay will probably export less wool in 1961-62 than during the previous year. Beginning stocks are considerably lower, offsetting the slightly increased production, making less wool available for export.

The wool check is expected to be slightly smaller, with reduced supplies being only partly offset by higher prices resulting from better quality.

U.K. SPENDS MORE FOR LIVESTOCK PRICE SUPPORT

The United Kingdom will spend an estimated \$186 million for price support of meat animals during the current fiscal year, according to the Minister of Agriculture.

Price support costs have increased more than expected due to declining prices in Britain. Payments for cattle this year may reach \$99 million, hogs \$49 million and sheep \$38 million.

The United Kingdom has a comprehensive system of subsidies to livestock producers. Substantial payments are made to live animal producers who market livestock for slaughter to bring national average returns to pre-determined support levels. These payments vary seasonally, and by type of animal.

When livestock prices rise above support levels, farmers must contribute to the price support pool. During the past few years, however, prices have usually been below the guarantees.

The system of subsidies encourages domestic production and discourages imports. Whereas the United Kingdom imported 52 percent of its meat requirements in 1938, it imported 49 percent in 1960. Britain still remains the world's largest importer bringing in 3.5 billion pounds of meat in 1960. It also imported a large number of feeder and slaughter livestock from Ireland.

In addition to the support payments, livestock producers are encouraged to increase domestic production by direct subsidies under the calf rearing, hill cattle and hill sheep programs. They may also benefit from subsidies on the application of lime and fertilizer, land clearing, drainage or other approved practices.

SALES OF PACKAGED DANISH BACON IN U.K. RISE

Sales of prepackaged vacuum-packed Danish bacon have increased sharply in the United Kingdom since full scale operations began in October in a Yorkshire plant.

Since 1958 the Danes have had a pilot plant operation at The Holmes, Selby, Yorkshire. During August 1958 100,000 packages were prepared and production rose to 600,000 packages in August 1959. In August 1960 production totaled 1,250,000 units. In October 1961 the plant was taken over by the Danish Bacon Factories Export Association. More than 10,000 bacon sides are now used weekly.

The uncured Danish sides arrive by truck from Hull or by barge from Goole. They are wrapped in grease-proof parchment in bales of 6. After being boned, smoked, dried, and sliced, they are packed in half-pound packets bearing the "Danepack" label.

A highly uniform pack, readily identified by consumers, is prepared. Retail labor charges are minimized. Soon prepacked bacon will become a competitor of loose bacon. Economies in packaging will be developed and the color, quality, and shelf life improved.

In June 1961 the British pig industry introduced "Meritmark" bacon to meet the competition from Danish sides. The Pig Industry Development Authority licenses the use of "Meritmark" for home produced Wiltshire sides meeting standards for carcass and cure. The mark is rolled in a continuous red strip on the cured sides so as to be readily apparent to wholesalers, retailers, and consumers. Bacon curers producing 90 percent of Britain's Wiltshire sides have accepted PIDA's code of practice for curing. Originally 67 curers were licensed to use the "Meritmark" label and now there are 76. Production during the first month of operation was 250 tons but is now around 700 tons a month or 10 percent of total production.

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Growth Through Agricultural Progress

VENEZUELA SESAME (continued from Page 2)

The expected decline in production may result in record imports of sesame seed in 1962--probably a minimum of 20,000 tons. Major sources of sesame imports in 1960 were Sudan, Nigeria, Rumania and former French West Africa.

NICARAGUA EXPECTS SMALLER
SESAME CROP

Nicaragua's 1961-62 sesame seed crop is forecast at 8,670 short tons from 32,800 acres, slightly less than the 8,975 tons produced from 34,380 acres in 1960-61. The estimate of the 1960-61 harvest is revised downward sharply from earlier estimates. Although there was a marked switch in some areas from cotton to sesame during that season, it obviously was not as large as early forecasts predicted. Moreover, harvested acreage was greatly reduced as torrential rains destroyed a large portion of the crop.

Sesame seed exports from Nicaragua totaled 9,946 tons in calendar 1960 and 9,561 tons in 1959. In 1960, the United States and Japan were the major markets, taking 6,719 and 2,160 tons, respectively.

